

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OPIC-03

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TO SECSTATE WASH DC PRIORITY 9793

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TAGS: ETRD, UK, OECD

SUBJECT: PROSPECTIVE UK IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

REFS: A) MTN GENEVA 9250, B) LONDON 19219, 19273,

L9274, C) OECD PARIS 32235

1. IF UK TAKES SELECTIVE IMPORT RESTRICTIVE ACTIONS THIS WEEK, IT IS HIGHLY PROBABLE THAT SECRETARY GENERAL VAN LENNEP WILL RAISE THESE AT LAST PRE-HOLIDAY COUNCIL MEETING NOW SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 22-23. HE IS BEING ADVISE, HOWEVER, THAT IF MEASURES ARE SUFFICIENTLY LIMITED IN SCOPE TO MAKE RETALIATION OR CHAIN REACTION UNLIKELY, HE PROBABLY SHOULD NOT MAKE A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL FOR ACTION UNDER THE TRADE PLEDGE, SINCE IT WOULD BE UP TO COUNCIL ITSELF TO DECIDE IF ACTIONS TAKEN RELATE DIRECTLY TO PLEDGE OR ARE MORE CLEARLY ESCAPE CLAUSE MEASURES FALLING OUTSIDE IT.

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2. NORMAL PROCEDURE WOULD BE FOR MEASURES CLEARLY

RELATED TO PLEDGE TO BE EXAMINED IN AN AD HOC WORKING PARTY OF THE COUNCIL, AS IN FINNISH AND PORTUGUESE CASES. OTHER ACTIONS WOULD BE EXAMINED BY TRADE COMMITTEE WORKING PARTY (TCUP), AS WAS DONE WITH AUSTRALIAN ESCAPE CLAUSE MEASURES AND UK INFLATION INSURANCE SCHEME EARLIER THIS YEAR. UK MAY WELL ARGUE THAT ITS ACTIONS, IF LIMITED, FALL INTO SECOND CATEGORY AND SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN LOW LEVEL TCWP FORUM.

3. NEVERTHELESS, WE RECOMMEND MISSION BE AUTHORIZED TO REQUEST ESTABLISHMENT OF AD HOC WORKING PARTY OF COUNCIL TO EXAMINE UK MEASURES EVEN IF THEY TURN OUT TO BE RELATIVELY MINOR IN SCOPE AND WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON DIRECT US TRADE INTERESTS. A COUNCIL EXAMINATION WOULD BEST SERVE PURPOSE OF KEEPING PRESSURE ON UK GOV'T TO AVOID ANY FURTHER ACTIONS AND HELP DISSUADE OTHERS FROM FOLLOWING UK EXAMPLE. IT WOULD ALSO BE MORE CONSISTENT WITH DEGREE OF CONCERN US HAS EXPRESSED ABOUT POSSIBLE RESTRICTIVE ACTIONS ON PART OF UK. IF COUNCIL COULD NOT AGREE ON THIS COURSE OF ACTION WE COULD FALL BACK TO USING TCWP.

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